

LIST OF CURRENT CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for determining the state of bank notes wherein data of at least two different properties of the bank notes are evaluated, comprising linking ~~characterized in that~~ the data of the at least two different properties of each bank note ~~are linked~~ with each other, and deriving the state of the bank note ~~is derived~~ from the linked data of the different properties.

2. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the at least two different properties are linked by means of a linear combination.

3. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ an average is determined for each of the different properties for a set of bank notes to determine the state of the set of bank notes for the particular different property.

4. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein any of ~~claims 1 to 3, characterized in that~~ an average is determined for the linked properties for a set of bank notes to determine the overall state of the set of bank notes.

5. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein any of ~~claims 1 to 4, characterized in that~~ the different properties of the bank notes relate to soiling and/or spots and/or limpness and/or tears and/or adhesive tape and/or dog-ears and/or holes and/or missing parts of the bank notes.

6. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for determining the state of bank notes, comprising having sensors ~~(31, 32, 33)~~ for detecting data of at least two different properties of the bank notes, and a control device ~~(35)~~ for determining the state of the bank notes from the data of the at least two different properties of the bank

notes, ~~wherein characterized in that~~ the control device is arranged to link ~~(35) links~~ the data of the at least two different properties of each bank note with each other, and the control device is arranged to derive the state of the bank note ~~is derived by the control device (35)~~ from the linked data of the different properties.

7. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the control device ~~(35) links~~ the at least two different properties by means of a linear combination.

8. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein ~~or 7, characterized in that~~ the different properties of the bank notes relate to soiling and/or spots and/or limpness and/or tears and/or adhesive tape and/or dog-ears and/or holes and/or missing parts of the bank notes.

9. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein ~~any of claims 6 to 8, characterized in that~~ the apparatus comprises ~~is formed by~~ a bank note processing machine.